

FACT SHEET

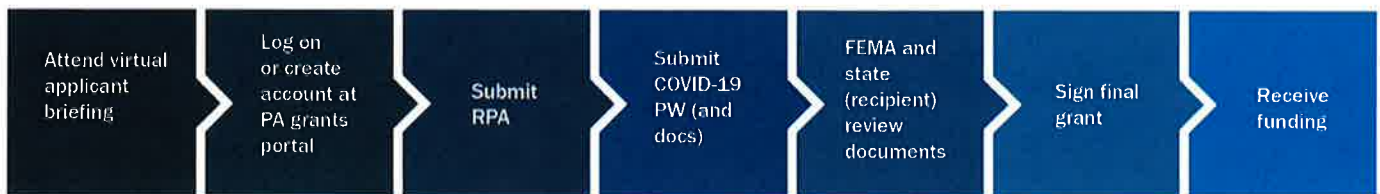
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Public Assistance Simplified Application

This Fact Sheet supplements *Fact Sheet: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Emergency Protective Measures* and provides an overview of the FEMA Public Assistance application process for recipients and applicants requesting reimbursement related to federal emergency and major disaster declarations for Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). FEMA is simplifying the Public Assistance application and funding process to address the magnitude of this event and allow local officials to receive eligible funding more quickly.

FEMA is simplifying the Public Assistance application process. FEMA is developing a simplified online form applicants can complete, and on which they may explain work activities, answer basic questions, provide limited supporting documentation, and provide a cost estimate. FEMA and the recipient will review this information, follow up with limited requests for additional information if necessary, and award assistance. Recipients will have access to all projects in [PA Grants Portal](#), consistent with the traditional PA process.

The national emergency declaration authorized Public Assistance Category B reimbursement for emergency protective measures. It does not include additional categories of assistance, such as infrastructure repair and replacement, which are needed after typical natural disasters. This enables FEMA to eliminate many application steps that are designed for those categories, including: eliminating exploratory calls, recovery scoping meetings, and most site inspections; and reducing documentation requirements to the minimum needed to support Category B reimbursement.

Recipients are states, tribes, or territories that receive and administer Public Assistance awards. Applicants are state, local, tribal and territorial governments, or eligible private nonprofits, submitting a request for assistance under a recipient's federal award.



Applicants are empowered to drive their own recovery and directly apply for reimbursement without waiting for FEMA to assign a Program Delivery Manager. FEMA is simplifying the process so applicants may directly apply for assistance through the [PA Grants Portal](#).

As FEMA and recipients implement these changes, FEMA will continue to process and fund Public Assistance projects. Funding is immediately available should state, tribal, territorial or local officials request expedited assistance. Prior to funding, recipients must sign FEMA-State/Tribal/Territorial Agreements, submit signed Federal Grant Applications (SF-424), and update Recipient Public Assistance Administrative Plans. Recipients should start [setting up Grants Portal accounts](#) for themselves and applicants at grantee.fema.gov so they can



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apply for assistance. Once an account is created, Applicants may [submit Requests for Public Assistance](#) to begin the application process.

FEMA is working to rapidly scale up the information, tools and technology necessary to provide assistance to all applicants. Eligibility guidance on what FEMA can fund will be updated on the Public Assistance Policy, Guidance, and Factsheets [page on FEMA.gov](#) and the [COVID-19 page on FEMA.gov](#). Application support and tutorials are available on the resource tab in [PA Grants Portal](#).

More Information

For more information, visit the following websites:

1. [Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#)
2. [FEMA.gov/Coronavirus](#)
3. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) (CDC)



Process for Organizational Account Creation and Request for Public Assistance (RPA) in Grants Portal

This Quick Guide provides the steps an Applicant must take to create a Grants Portal user account and submit an RPA.

1. **Potential Applicants interested in participation in the Public Assistance Program should initiate the process by reaching out to their Local Emergency Management Department or State Emergency Management representative.**

Grants Portal

System used by State/Local/Tribal/Territorial governments and eligible non-profit organizations to manage PA grant applications.

2. **Upon receipt of interest from an organization, the Recipient (State) will reach out to the potential Applicant to obtain the following information:**
 - *Applicant Name*
 - *County*
 - *FEMA PA Code*
 - *EIN Number*
 - *DUNS Number*
 - *Org Type*
 - *Primary/Alternate Contact (Name, Title, Phone, Email)*
 - *Physical/Mailing (Address, City, State, Zip)*
 - *Damaged Facility Information (Name, Location, Primary Purpose, Critical (Y/N), Facility Fee (Y/N), In Use (Y/N), Damaged (Y/N), Owned/Legally Responsibility of Applicant (Y/N), Insured (Y/N), Additional Comments)*
3. **After all necessary information has been collected, the Recipient will create an account for the Applicant in Grants Portal and submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) on their behalf.**
4. **The Recipient's set-up actions will prompt a system-generated email to the Applicant with a username and temporary password. The Applicant will use this to log-in to Grants Portal for the first time. The user will then be prompted to set up a permanent password for their account.**

Navigation: Follow instructions and links provided by email

5. **With a valid username and password, the Applicant now has access to Grants Portal and the ability to view RPA status.**

The *Quick Guide* series is a set of documents that explain the roles and responsibilities of Recipients and Applicants in key steps in FEMA's Public Assistance Program delivery process. The Public Assistance Program provides Federal grant funding to help communities quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the president. Read more about Public Assistance Program delivery in other Quick Guides, the [Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#), and resources available on [Grants Portal](#).

SUMMARY

STATE: Mississippi
NUMBER: FEMA-3474-EM
INCIDENT: COVID-19
INCIDENT PERIOD: January 20, 2020, and continuing
FEDERAL COORDINATING OFFICER: Gracia B. Szczech

DESIGNATIONS AND TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

Pursuant to the Nationwide Emergency Declaration issued by the President on March 13, 2020, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is authorized to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the designated areas. Specifically, FEMA is authorized to provide emergency protective measures (Category B) not authorized under other Federal statutes, including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program at 75 percent federal funding.

This assistance is for all areas in the State of Mississippi.

FACT SHEET

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Eligible Emergency Protective Measures

Consistent with the President's national emergency declaration for the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on March 13, 2020, FEMA urges officials to, without delay, take appropriate actions that are necessary to protect public health and safety pursuant to public health guidance and conditions and capabilities in their jurisdictions. FEMA provides the following guidance on the types of emergency protective measures that may be eligible under FEMA's Public Assistance Program in accordance with the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration in order to ensure that resource constraints do not inhibit efforts to respond to this unprecedented disaster.

FEMA Public Assistance Program

In accordance with section 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act"), eligible emergency protective measures taken to respond to the COVID-19 emergency at the direction or guidance of public health officials may be reimbursed under Category B of FEMA's Public Assistance program. *FEMA will not duplicate assistance provided by the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) (HHS), to include the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), or other federal agencies.*

State, territorial, tribal, and local government entities and certain private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for [Public Assistance](#). FEMA assistance will be provided at a 75 percent federal cost share. This assistance will require execution of a FEMA-State/Tribal/Territory Agreement, as appropriate, and execution of an applicable emergency plan. Local governments and other eligible PA applicants will apply through their respective state, tribal or territorial jurisdictions.

Eligible Assistance

Under the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration described above, FEMA may provide assistance for emergency protective measures including, but not limited to, the following, if not funded by the HHS/CDC or other federal agency. *While some activities listed may be eligible for funding through HHS/CDC, final reimbursement determinations will be coordinated by HHS and FEMA. FEMA will not duplicate any assistance provided by HHS/CDC):*

- Management, control and reduction of immediate threats to public health and safety:
 - Emergency Operation Center costs



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- Training specific to the declared event
- Disinfection of eligible public facilities
- Technical assistance to state, tribal, territorial or local governments on emergency management and control of immediate threats to public health and safety
- Emergency medical care:
 - Non-deferrable medical treatment of infected persons in a shelter or temporary medical facility
 - Related medical facility services and supplies
 - Temporary medical facilities and/or enhanced medical/hospital capacity (for treatment when existing facilities are reasonably forecasted to become overloaded in the near term and cannot accommodate the patient load or to quarantine potentially infected persons)
 - Use of specialized medical equipment
 - Medical waste disposal
 - Emergency medical transport
- Medical sheltering (e.g. when existing facilities are reasonably forecasted to become overloaded in the near future and cannot accommodate needs)
 - All sheltering must be conducted in accordance with standards and/or guidance approved by HHS/CDC and must be implemented in a manner that incorporates social distancing measures
 - Non-congregate medical sheltering is subject to prior approval by FEMA and is limited to that which is reasonable and necessary to address the public health needs of the event, is pursuant to the direction of appropriate public health officials and does not extend beyond the duration of the Public Health Emergency
- Household pet sheltering and containment actions related to household pets in accordance with CDC guidelines
- Purchase and distribution of food, water, ice, medicine, and other consumable supplies, to include personal protective equipment and hazardous material suits
- Movement of supplies and persons
- Security and law enforcement
- Communications of general health and safety information to the public
- Search and rescue to locate and recover members of the population requiring assistance
- Reimbursement for state, tribe, territory and/or local government force account overtime costs

More Information

Further information about eligible emergency protective measures can be found in the [Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#), FP 104-009-2 (April 2018).

For more information, visit the following federal government websites:


- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(CDC\)](#)
- [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#)




FEMA

March 17, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: All States, Territories, Tribal Governments, Local Governments, and All Other Non-Federal Entities Receiving FEMA Financial Assistance

FROM: David Bibo 
Acting Associate Administrator
Office of Response and Recovery

Bridget E. Bean 
Assistant Administrator
Grant Programs Directorate

SUBJECT: Procurement Under Grants Conducted Under Emergency or Exigent Circumstances for COVID-19

Subsequent to the President's March 13, 2020 Nationwide Emergency Declaration for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is issuing the attached Fact Sheet addressing procurements made during periods of exigent or emergency circumstances. FEMA recognizes that noncompetitive procurements may be necessary to save lives, to protect property and public health, and to ensure public safety, as well as to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe. The attached Fact Sheet provides answers and guidance surrounding the need for such measures.

Current Federal procurement standards (found at 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(f)(2)) allow non-state entities to noncompetitively procure contracts (i.e., sole-sourcing) under certain emergency or exigent circumstances. FEMA defines an emergency or exigent circumstances as unexpected and unusually dangerous situations requiring immediate action or an urgent need for assistance or relief. Emergencies typically involve a threat to life, public health or safety, improved property, or some other form of dangerous situation. Exigencies, on the other hand, typically involve an urgent need to avoid, prevent, or alleviate serious harm or injury, financial or otherwise. Under both an emergency and exigency, using a competitive procurement process would prevent a non-state entity from taking immediate action required to address the situation. However, use of the emergency/exigency exception is only permissible during the actual emergency or exigent circumstances.

The President's unprecedented Nationwide Emergency Declaration, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services' (HHS) declaration of a Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 establish that exigent and emergency circumstances currently exist.

For the duration of the Public Health Emergency, which began January 27, 2020 as determined by HHS, local governments, tribal governments, nonprofits, and other non-state entities may proceed with new and existing noncompetitively procured contracts in order to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threats created by emergency situations for 1) Emergency protective measures under FEMA's Public Assistance Program and 2) Use of FEMA non-disaster grant funds by non-state recipients and sub-recipients to respond to or address COVID-19.

Attachment:

(1) Fact Sheet: *Procurement Under Grants Conducted Under Exigent or Emergency Circumstances*

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Health Officials Confirm Second Coronavirus Death in Mississippi

March 25, 2020

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MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NEWS RELEASE

JACKSON, Miss. – Today the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) reports the second death from coronavirus (COVID-19) in Mississippi. The case was a male 60-65 years old from Holmes County with underlying health conditions. He died while hospitalized.

As of Tuesday, Mississippi had 320 cases and one previous death reported in a male 60-65 from Hancock County with underlying health conditions. MSDH strives to update new case counts at 10 a.m. each day.

“We knew that more deaths would be inevitable, just as we expect numerous new cases. It is a very sad update to report, regardless,” said MSDH State Health Officer Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH. “Please do your part by practicing all preventive measures. It is vitally important that we all do what we can right now to help slow the spread of this virus.”

Preventive measures Mississippians can take include the following:

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, especially after coughing or sneezing, blowing your nose, and using the bathroom. Effective handwashing takes about 20 seconds, and includes cleaning under fingernails, between fingers, and washing the back of hands as well as the front.

- Stay home if you are sick and avoid close contact with anyone who is ill.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes. When possible, cough, sneeze or blow your nose into a tissue, and throw the tissue away.
- If you are sick, especially with shortness of breath, severe cough, fever or severe chest pain, call a doctor or healthcare provider for instructions on being safely examined.
- Avoid social gatherings where 10 people or more would come into close contact.
- Practice social distancing: stay at least six feet apart from others in a group.

For more information on preventive measures and the latest guidance, download the free MS Ready mobile app or visit HealthyMS.com/covid-19.

Follow MSDH by e-mail and social media at HealthyMS.com/connect.

Press Contact: MSDH Office of Communications, (601) 576-7667

Note to media: After hours or during emergencies, call 1-866-HLTHY4U (1-866-458-4948)

Get weekly restaurant inspections and more by e-mail:



Last reviewed on Mar 25, 2020

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